

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13640 301827Z

70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 127931

R 301410Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5417

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UCCLAS BEIRUT 13640

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, ET, SU, VT

REF: ROME 13183 (NOT SENT TEL AVIV)

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH AN NAHAR CORRESPONDENT FOUAD MATAR
PUBLISHED HERE NOV 30, SUDAN'S PRES NIMEIRI SAID VISIT HE AND
ETHIOPIAN EMPEROR HAILIE SELASSIE PLAN TO MAKE TO VATICAN WILL
BE FOR PURPOSE OF OBTAINING JOINT PAPAL-ISLAMIC DECLARATION CALLING
FOR "DEZIONIZATION" OF JERUSALEM AND ITS RETURN TO ARAB CONROL.
SAID ARABS, HAVING FOUGHT ISRAEL POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY,
INTEND TO ACT ON RELIGIOUS LEVEL AS WELL. CLAIMED THAT IDEA FOR TRIP
TO ROME HAD INITIALLY BEEN HIS OWN, BUT THAT HE HAD CONSULTED WITH
KING FEISAL WHO HAD "BLESSED" IT, AND WITH HAILE SELASSIE WHO HAD
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AGREED TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE "OF HIS DEEP CONCERN FOR CHRISTIAN

HOLY PLACES" AND "ETHIOPIA'S STATUS AS OLDEST CHRISTIAN STATE IN AFRICA". NIMEIRI SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH OTHER AFRICAN CHRISTIAN LEADERS, SUCH AS ZAMBIA'S KAUNDA "WHO IS HIGHLY RESPECTED AT VATICAN", AND THAT HIS MISSION HAD BEEN WARMLY WELCOMED AT ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS.

2. ASKED WHAT HE EXPECTED TO GAIN FROM HIS INITIATIVE, NIMEIRI REPLIED: "WE SHALL DISCUSS ONLY QUESTION OF JERUSALEM WITH POPE PAUL. WE HOPE RESULT WILL BE JOINT CHRISTIAN-ISLAMIC COMMUNIQUE STRESSING NON-JUDAIZATION OF JERUSALEM AND ITS RETURN TO ARABS." ASKED WHETHER POPE WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY, NIMEIRI SAID "POPE SUPPORTS WHATEVER IS RIGHT, AND WHAT WE SHALL ASK OF HIM IS RIGHT AND JUST. WE KNOW POPE HAS ALWAYS CALLED FOR PEACE". HE GAVE NO INDICATION RE TIMING OF VISIT.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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NNN

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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